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Westmoreland Case Set to Resume Today

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the former commander of American forces in Vietnam, is expected to resume his testimony this morning in his libel trial against CBS in Federal Court in Manhatttan.

The general's cross-examination was postponed Tuesday morning after the 70-year-old witness complained of back pain. According to Dan M. Burt, Mr. Westmoreland's lawyer, the general has had recurring back problems for years.

In deference to the general's age and health, Mr. Burt and David Boies, the lawyer for CBS, agreed some time ago that General Westmoreland would not have to testify for more than four or five hours a day and could leave the stand if he were overly tired. General Westmoreland first took the stand Nov. 15.

In his libel suit, General Westmoreland contends that he was defamed by a 1982 CBS Reports documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception." CBS says the broadcast was true.

The documentary alleged a "conspiracy" at the "highest levels" of military intelligence to minimize the size and nature of enemy forces in South Vietnam in the year before the Tet offensive of January 1968.

When the trial resumes, Mr. Boies is expected to continue questioning General Westmoreland about a series of disputed enemy strength estimates that he provided President Johnson in November 1967.